

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A crosslinker composition consisting essentially of
  - a) 50 to 95 weight percent monomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives containing not more than about 0.20 wt. % of imino (>N-H) groups; and
  - b) 5 to 50 weight percent oligomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives, wherein
    - (i) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
    - (ii) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content, I, defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$ , where X is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and I is expressed in weight percent imino; or
    - (iii) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %;
  - c) wherein said crosslinker composition does not comprise a carbamate co-crosslinking agent, and
  - d) wherein said weight percent of monomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives in a) plus said weight percent of oligomeric C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>8</sub> alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives in b) does not exceed 100%.
16. (Currently Amended) A crosslinker composition comprising monomeric and oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine, wherein monomeric alkoxymethylated melamine molecules have 6 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, wherein said substituent groups are selected from the group consisting of imino [>N-H], methylol [>N-CH<sub>2</sub>OH], alkoxymethyl [>N-CH<sub>2</sub>OR] and acetal [>N-CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>2</sub>OR]; and wherein difunctional bridging groups between melamine units in oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine are selected from the

group consisting of methylene groups [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] and methylene ether [ $>\text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-\text{N}<$ ] groups; wherein:

- a) monomeric alkoxymethylated melamine units comprise at least 50 and up to 95 percent by weight of the monomeric and oligomeric alkoxymethylated melamine units in the composition as determined by size exclusion chromatography,
- b) alkoxymethyl groups comprise at least 5.0 moles of substituent groups attached to pendant nitrogen atoms per mole of monomeric melamine, and
- c) said alkoxymethyl groups on each melamine unit are methoxymethyl or mixtures of methoxymethyl and higher alkoxymethyl groups; wherein
- d) when said composition comprises from 5 to 20 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.20 wt. %;
- e) when said composition comprises from 20 to 30 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content,  $I$ , defined by the algorithm,  $I \leq 0.02X - 0.2$ , where  $X$  is the weight percent oligomer in the composition and  $I$  is expressed in weight percent imino; or
- f) when said composition comprises from 30 to 50 wt. % oligomer, said composition has an imino content of less than 0.7 wt. %,
- g) wherein said crosslinker composition does not comprise a carbamate co-crosslinking agent, and
- h) wherein said weight percent of monomeric  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_8$  alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives in a) plus said weight percent of oligomeric  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_8$  alkoxymethyl melamine derivatives in b) does not exceed 100%.